(d) if so, the details of other issues discussed and the outcome thereof alongwith the officials agencies/ industrial sectors participated in the above meeting; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to meet the Indo-US alliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e). The Term of the Indo-US Alliance has been extended by two years for the period from January 16th, 1997 to January 15th, 1999. The Agreement for this was signed between the two Governments on October 16, 1996 in Washington DC at the Board Meeting of the Indo-US Commercial Alliance.

The Alliance encompasses trade associations as well as large & small businesses and provides a general frame work for increased inter-action in various sectors between private sector enterprises of both the countries for expanding trade & commercial ties. The Alliance is presently focussing on four sectors, namely, information technology, transportation and infrastructure, agri-business and power. The Board has agreed to consider including environmental technologies as an additional focus sector and also give additional emphasis to small and medium sized businesses. The Alliance is likely to further consolidate its achievements and build on new synergies between the India and US businesses for expanded, mutually-beneficial commercial linkages.

[English]

Electronic Data Interchange

4408. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Electronic Data Interchange has been installed at Delhi Customs House for the efficient working of export business by the exporters;

(b) if so, whether the paper work load of exporters has been reduced to some extent with the installation of this system;

(c) if not, the efforts being made by the Government to make the system more efficient and to reduce the paper work load of exporters;

(d) whether Government propose to install more Electronic Data Interchange at other major Custom Houses in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Customs clearance procedure of exports under this system has resulted in reduced paper work. The working of the procedure is reviewed on on-going basis to effect improvements.

(d) and (e). Government proposes to extend the system to other Custom Houses and Air Cargo Complexes at Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Kandla, Nhava Sheva, Vishakapatnam, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Cochin, goa, Tuticorin, Mangalore, Ahmedabad and the process will be completed by the end of 1997.

Hike in Wages of Sick PSUs

4409. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Public Enterprises has recommended that wage hikes for executives and non unionised supervisors be allowed for public sector units which are under the BIFR;

(b) if so, whether the Govt. have considered the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As per the extent guidelines on pay revision, w.e.f. 1.1.92, it is stipulated tht for sick enterprises registered with BIFR, pay revision and grant of other benefits will be allowed only if it is decided to revive the unit. The revival package should include the enhanced liability on this account. This matter, however, is under review.

Loan from ADB

4410. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently received the Loan from the Asian Development Bank at concessional rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the mode of repayment of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The Government has not received any loan assistance from ADB on concessional terms;

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

I.M.F. and W.B. Loan to India

4411. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans drawn by India from IMF and World Bank and other foreign financial institutions as on date;